

Columbia River Channel Improvement Project Effects of SB 5108 Engrossed

Columbia River Channel Improvement Project

- The Columbia River Channel Improvement Project is a \$160 million bi-state and Federal navigation infrastructure project authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deepen 103.5 miles of the existing federal navigation channel from -40 to -43 feet from Columbia River mile (CRM) 3 to CRM 106.5.
- Non-Federal Sponsors include the ports of Longview, Kalama, Vancouver and Woodland, WA and Portland and St. Helens, OR who have worked since the late 1980s for the project.
- Congress has appropriated \$64 million of the \$101 million federal share of construction costs.
- Oregon and Washington State have each appropriated \$27.7 million in non-federal funds to the project. All but \$3 million of the Washington appropriation has already gone to the project.
- The project is in its third year of construction and is about 41% complete.

Project Features

The project requires a total of 29 upland sites (1,681 acres), 3 shoreline sites, 2 ocean sites, and 1 gravel pit for disposal of construction materials. A mitigation plan to mitigate for the impacts of the project was developed and refined as a result of the ESA consultation process, Washington and Oregon Water Quality Certification and comments received through public involvement. From this iterative process, the mitigation plan calls for environmental mitigation features on a total of 740 acres of land located in both states at 3 locations including development of 171 acres of wetland habitat, 202 acres of riparian forest habitat plus 248 acres of permanent pastureland.

Columbia River Channel Improvement Project Benefits to the Region & Nation

- \$16 billion in exports and imports are transported via the Columbia River each year.
- Single largest wheat and barley export gateway in the nation.
- Third largest grain (wheat, corn, soybeans, and barley) export gateway in the world.
- An additional 6,000 tons of wheat worth \$1 million per ship can be loaded in a deeper channel.
- Approximately 40,000 jobs, each with an average annual wage of \$46,000, depend on Columbia River maritime activity. An additional 59,000 jobs are positively influenced.
- The Columbia River provides access to world markets for farmers in eleven western states.
- Washington is one of the nation's largest wheat-exporting states, with 85 to 90 percent of its production exported each year.

Effects of SB 5108 Engrossed, House Amendment Section 6, adopted 4/10/2007.

Senate Bill 5108 would prohibit use of eminent domain to acquire agricultural land for wetland mitigation.

- SB 5108 would halt this project without completion of the required mitigation.
- SB 5108 would result in the inability of the sponsor ports to acquire the necessary mitigation lands for the project to comply with all of the environmental requirements for the project after coordination for the National Environmental Policy Act, Washington State Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Zone Management Act and other related laws.
- SB 5108 would prohibit compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act administered by the Environmental Protection Agency and delegated to the Washington Department of Ecology.
- SB 5108 would prohibit compliance with the Washington water quality certification for the project issued June 23, 2003 which requires specific implementation of the mitigation plan.

Mitigation Lands in Washington for the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project

There are two mitigation sites in Washington for the authorized project, Woodland Bottoms and Martin Island with four affected landowners. These sites were identified and went through the public review process over the 18 years this project has been in development by the Corps of Engineers.

Woodland Bottoms	Chumbley Property	72 acres	Already acquired
	Czech Property	41 acres	Not yet acquired
	Colf Property	105 acres	Not yet acquired
	Zylstra Property	50 acres	Not yet acquired
Martin Island	Colf Property	428 acres	Not yet acquired